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MONTANA BICENTENNIAL NEWS

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IN

THIS ISSUE:

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MONTANA

BICENTENNIAL NEWS

AUGUST--SEPTEMBER

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 2

John Barrett--Editor

BIKECENTENNIAL DAY--JULY 17, 1974

Governor Thomas L. Judge proclaimed Wednesday, July 17 as Bikecentennial '76 Day in recognition of the efforts of the cycling organization to inaugurate America's first cross country bicycle trail.

The Trans-America Trail, as it will be called, will extend from Oregon to Washington, DC. It will be the longest bicycle trail in the world, crossing thirteen states, including Montana.

The recognition bestowed upon the Bikecentennial '76 organization by the Governor's proclamation is especially significant in view of the fact that the originators of the organization are from Missoula, Montana.

Information concerning the Bikecentennial and the future Trans-America Trail can be secured by writing to Dan Burden, Director, Bikecentennial '76, Box 1034, Missoula, Montana, 59801.

photo by Hal Stearns

Jim and Es Kehew of Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, pant and peddle their way into Yellowstone National Park enroute to the East coast. The Kehews, in their 50's, are realizing lifetime dreams in this initial journey along the proposed Trans-America Trail.

Jim and Es are researching the trail and possible Hostel sites for the Bikecentennial '76 organization. They arrived in the Park at Old Faithful on July 17, in time for a special Montana-Wyoming ceremony honoring the pair in their pioneering efforts. Present at the ceremony were Hal Stearns and Pat Hall, Bicentennial Directors for Montana and Wyoming, respectively. Each presented the Kehews with their own state's flag, along with special letters of commendation.

2 CROSS-COUNTRY BICYCLISTS RECEIVE STATE FLAG

photo by Hal Stearns

Jim and Es Kehew display Montana State Flag which was presented to them by Hal Stearns on July 17. The picturesque Old Faithful Inn is seen in the background. The Kehews, after a day of honor and much-needed rest, continued on their way to Washington DC, terminus of the Trans-America Trail.

The Trail will be inaugurated as part of the 1976 Bicentennial summer of events. As many as 30,000 American and International bicyclists will join special tours along the route to include Bicentennial Communities, fairs, rodeos and folk festivals.

*

WHAT WENT ON IN MONTANA IN 1874?? ...well, according to the Madisonian, the Virginia City newsrag, the proposed move of the territorial capitol to Helena from Virginia City created a furor, but after much dispute over allegedly illegal balloting, Helena won out and the dastardly deed was done... I guess "Helena", being a shorter word than "Virginia City" insured a savings considering bureaucrats' penchant for the written word.

IN 1874 IN MONTANA...Long John Whiskey was recommended to be as free of poison as soda water and a man could drink temperate draughts for a lifetime without fear of tremens.

THE MADISONIAN EDITOR, IN A SCATHING DENUNCIATION OFFERED that Congress has spent seven months in senseless gabble, proving the entire inadequacy of the majority to rule.

AN EDITORIAL ON JULY 4, 1874, PROCLAIMED THAT today is the 98th anniversary of the Declaration of a free existence of a nation which has enjoyed expansion, prosperity and intelligence of marvelous degree. Now there are 37 states and 3 territories clamoring for statehood. There are no slaves and the nation's wealth has increased.

But a heavy debt hangs over the nation as a galling burden. However, let there be two years hence cannonading, accidents, flags fireworks and all sorts of pent-up patriotism.

photo by Roche Jaune

The initial medal in the official Montana Bicentennial Medal Collection will be released in August by the Bicentennial Administration and Rouche Jaune, Inc., of Kalispell, Montana, the Collection's manufacturer. The official collection will feature four distinct, high relief medals in both copper and silver. The theme of the collection reflects the varied and spirited history of Montana beginning with the "the first ones", the first Montanans, the Indians.

Pictured above are the two sides of the initial medal. One side depicts an Indian scouting buffalo with a Blackfeet inscription. The obverse side depicts the famed journey of Lewis & Clark through Montana.

The medals can be ordered now by writing to the Montana Bicentennial Administration in Helena or Rouche Jaune, Inc., in Kalispell. The medals may be purchased individually or as a set.

A special "numbered" series will be offered on a first come, first serve basis. This special series will be in .999 percent silver and will be limited to 1500 numbered and recorded sets.

The second medal will be featured in the next issue of the Bicentennial News in October of this year. Inquiries concerning the official Montana Medal Series should be directed to this office or Rouche Jaune.

SEPTEMBER 5, 1974, IS THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE 1st MEETING OF THE FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS IN PHILADELPHIA

MONTANANS OF SWEDISH DESCENT, TAKE NOTE

Per Olof Forshell, Consul General of Sweden and resident of Minnesota,would like to hear from Swedish organizations in Montana. Per Forshell is presently planning a Bicentennial celebration in honor of our nation's 200th birthday and would like to involve Montana Swedish-Americans.

The Bicentennial program in 1976 would emphasize Swedish-American achievements and the value of continuing the close ties between our two countries.

If there are any organizations or citizens interested in the development of this Bicentennial program, please contact Per Olof Forshell, Swedish Consulate General, 730 2nd Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55402.

*

CHIEF JOSEPH DOCUMENTARY TO BE FILMED IN MONTANA THIS FALL

A 4-6 hour documentary on famed Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce Indians will be filmed in Montana soon. The film will be shot for a television series in connection with the Bicentennial in 1975-1976.

*

SIDNEY/RICHLAND COUNTY NAMED MONTANA'S FIRST BICENTENNIAL COMMUNITY

photo by Marie MacDonald

American Revolution Bicentennial Administration Region 8 Director, Joe Albi of Denver, officially designated SIDNEY/RICHLAND COUNTY as Montana's first official Bicentennial Community.

In a ceremony at Central Park, the national Bicentennial flag was presented to Russ Wells, Richland County Bicentennial Commission Chairman. The flag will be displayed over the County Courthouse during the Bicentennial era.

Russ Wells, Joe Albi and Hal Stearns each delivered a word or two on the hard work and planning that has enabled Sidney/Richland County to become a Bicentennial Community.

Joe Albi offered a special certificate recognizing the community for its efforts. Hal Stearns read a proclamation from Governor Judge marking Sunday, July 21, 1974, as Sidney/Richland County Bicentennial Community Day. Mr. Stearns also announced the Laura Daniels appointment to the Advisory Council to the Bicentennial. Mrs. Daniels appointment is treated in another article in this issue.

Information on how to become a Bicentennial Community can be obtained from the Montana Bicentennial Administration in Helena. CONGRATULATIONS TO SIDNEY/RICHLAND CO.

LAURA DANIELS NAMED TO ADVISORY COUNCIL JULY 18

Mrs. Laura Daniels of Sidney was named by Governor Thomas L. Judge to serve on the Advisory Council to the Montana Bicentennial Administration. Mrs. Daniels will provide imput from Eastern Montana where she has longbeen a diligent worker in youth, rural and civic affairs. Mrs. Daniels is from the Sidney area.

Mr. Stearns expressed his pleasure at the appointment and praised the Governor for selecting someone from the eastern part of the state, too often neglected by agencies of state government.

"I am looking forward to meeting with Mrs. Daniels at the next Advisory Council meeting. I am sure that she will bring with her many ideas and suggestions helpful to the Bicentennial effort in Montana. Eastern Montana will most certainly be represented well by the capable Mrs. Daniels. I welcome her appointment," stated the Director.

BICENTENNIAL "FIRES UP" FOR BILLINGS' WESTERN DAYS PARADE

photo by Peter Yegen, Jr.

Bicentennial Director, Hal Stearns, seems overcome with something (perhaps the heat) as he sits astride a 1913 fire engine in the Western Days Parade in Billings July 20.

Deean Leckie, Yellowstone County Bicentennial Commission Co-chairperson holds the national Bicentennial flag as the parade winds its way through Billings. The fire engine, owned by Peter Yegen, Jr., of Billings will be on display at the Bicentennial building at the Yellowstone Exhibition in August. The Exposition will house, among other things, a Bicentennial display from Washington.

A CHALLENGE TO DISCOVER THE OLDEST "SOURDOUGH BATCH" IN MONTANA was sent to us from Wiley Welch, special "curator" of those kind of things up in Browning. Wiley asserts that a contest of some kind be held to determine the oldest batch of them bacterial flapjack fixin's. He suggests that the state's "gourmets of the grill" rustle up the date when they began their batch and send it in to the Bicentennial Administration in Helena.

Well, we thought it was a good idea (especially if samples were included) so the Bicentennial is offering a $25, that's right, $25 prize for the oldest batch of sourdough in the state. Now, to insure the accuracy of each contestant's offering, the Bicentennial will require a brief narrative history of the particular batch of sourdough, giving the "facts" surrounding its glorious creation.

It just occurred to me that maybe the only thing we will discover will be the name of the "biggest liar" in the state, rather than the "oldest batch of sourdough." Oh, well, either way it's worth $25 !!!

Deadline for receipt of OLDEST SOURDOUGH BATCH entries will be September 13, 1974. (that's a Friday, in case you're interested) The winner and other interesting highlights of the contest will be announced at the State Bicentennial Workshop on September 20-21. A special story on the contest will be included in the October issue of this newsletter.

County Bicentennial Committees are urged to seek out local SOURDOUGH BATCHERS and encourage them to enter the contest. Entries should be sent to the Montana Bicentennial Administration, Box 1776, Capitol Station, Helena, Montana, 59601.

BICENTENNIAL LOGO PINS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM YOUR COUNTY BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE OR THE STATE BICENTENNIAL ADMINISTRATION.* * * * * * * *WEAR ONE FOR U.S.

IN MONTANA IN 1874...single beds were 50¢ per night...meals $7 weekly...stage coach fare to Bozeman and back was $12...the Helena city debt was $150,000 DOLLARS...and inflation was rampant in the land, so they say, potatoes were $2 per cwt, flour $5.50 and hay $10 a ton !!!

*

DATE SET FOR BICENTENNIAL WORKSHOP IN FALL

September 20-21 have tentatively been set aside for a planned State Bicentennial Workshop to be held in Helena. Director Hal Stearns announced the dates recently in response to numerous inquiries from around the state.

The proposed workshop will be held expressly for City and County Bicentennial committee leaders from throughout the state. The day-and-a-half event will try to focus attention on the Bicentennial and at the same time give the various community Bicentennial leaders an opportunity to learn more about existing programs&ideas for the commemoration.

Suggestions from local Bicentennial organizations as to possible workshop topics and materials will be entertained until September 1. If you or your organization has an idea for the State Workshop, please forward it to the State office in Helena.

This workshop is for all of us. We will all learn from it. Cooperation from the various localities around the state will be requisite to an effective session.

Send us your ideas. The Bicentennial is the business of all Montanans. Get involved!!!

*

FIRST MONTANA HISTORY CONFERENCE SET

"Montana and the West: New Directions" is the theme for Montana's initial history conference. It will be held at the Colonial Hilton in Helena from October 31 to November 2, 1974.

The conference is sponsored by the Council to Preserve Montana History and the Montana Historical Society with a grant from the Montana Committee on the Humanities.

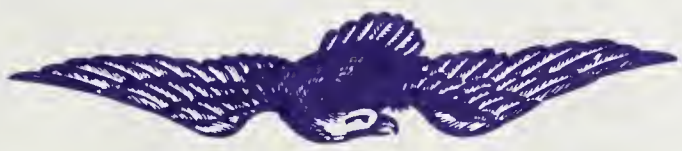
Outstanding speakers will provide a wealth of information and attendance is urged. Contact us for details.

"THE BICENTENNIAL IS FOR THE YOUNG, TOO," says John Warner, Bicentennial Administrator. "Less than 23 months from now the nation goes into its 3rd century as a sovereign, independent nation. Young people should realize that the next century belongs to them. They will be making the decisions, providing the leadership, determining the direction America will be taking in the future."

Mr. Warner continues, "the United States was founded largely by young people: 19 of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were in their 40's, 16 in their 30's, two were 27. Jefferson was 33, Hamilton 21 and Lafayette only 19."

"Certainly the Bicentennial Celebration of the American Revolution belongs to the youth of this country. Their youthful predecessors were a major part of the Revolution itself"

THE MONTANA BICENTENNIAL ADMINISTRATION URGES ALL OF YOU TO INVOLVE THE YOUTH OF THIS STATE IN THE COMMEMORATION OF OUR BICENTENNIAL. IT IS IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE THAT WE REACH OUT AND MAKE ROOM FOR THEM, FOR THEY BELONG TO THE NEXT CENTURY, THEY ARE THE HISTORY FOR OUR THIRD BIRTHDAY.



"Every man has room in his face for all his ancestors."
RALPH WALDO EMERSON

It is highly important for the citizens of every community to cherish and preserve their heritage. A sense of identity springs from knowing where you come from. It feels good to walk down the same streets your forebears trod, or to sit under the same tree your great-grandfather sat under, and his grandfather had planted before him.

Many of the small towns of Montana will not exist in 100 years if they continue to lose importance as they have been. Preservation is our business, each of us. And many of us are only recently beginning to realize this. That is why it is important to rediscover your origins, to preserve what remains of them.

FIX UP-PAINT UP-CLEAN UP-CHERISH YOUR HOME TOWN-NOW OR NEVER

DIRECTOR ATTENDS SAN FRANCISCO MEET

Hal Stearns, Director of the Bicentennial in Montana and Henry Ruegamer, member of the Executive Committee of the Bicentennial Advisory Council, attended the Western meeting of state Bicentennial Directors and Advisory Council representatives in San Francisco, California, June 25-27.

Mr. Stearns and Mr. Ruegamer met with John Warner, new national Bicentennial Administrator, and discussed new Bicentennial policies and programs. Mr. Warner was accompanied by members of his staff and spent considerable time on public relations, upcoming programs, funding possibilities and other vital Bicentennial matters.

Mr. Warner, former Secretary of the Navy, made a most impressive appearance and convinced all in attendance that he will be a forceful and effective administrator. He met privately with the Montana delegation on several matters and allowed that he still loved the place, having spent some time in Montana as a young man.

Mr. Stearns and Mr. Ruegamer stayed at the Hyatt/ Regency Hotel in San Francisco and the trip was paid for by the national Bicentennial Administration.

photo by Edwin Hoffman

Hal Stearns, Director of the Montana Bicentennial, shows off Montana's logo pin to John Warner of the ARBA.

BICENTENNIAL DIRECTOR PRESENTS GOVERNOR WITH 2ND CACHET

Governor Thomas L. Judge accepts the second cachet in the official Montana Bicentennial Collection from Hal Stearns, Bicentennial Director.

The second cachet, issued June 1, 1974, depicts the historic Louisiana Purchase of 1803 by Thomas Jefferson. The cachet is printed on a blue envelope and displays the Montana Bicentennial logo in 3 colors, a map outlining the Purchase, Lewis and Clark canoeing down the Missouri River in Montana, and Jefferson.

photo by Bobby Gruel

The cachet is franked with the scarce Louisiana Purchase stamp and is cancelled from Great Falls, Montana -- the northwest tip of the Louisiana Purchase and the gateway to the Pacific. Inside the cacheted envelope is an information card giving a brief history of the Purchase and the Great Falls of the Missouri. The cachet sells for $1.

Governor Judge had previously received the initial cachet in the series from the Director. In all, ten cachets will complete the historic cacheted envelope series commemorating the Bicentennial. Information on the cachet series can be secured by writing to the Montana Bicentennial Administration in Helena.

Governor Judge also received the special "Camp Baker" cachet. 500 numbered Camp Baker cachets were printed and cancelled with the original hand-cancellation device from Camp Baker, Montana, an historic military outpost that went out of existence in 1869. The Bicentennial has a few Camp Bakers remaining. They may be purchased for $5 from the office in Helena.

What is the people's Bicentennial Commission?

We have been asked by many if the PBC's efforts are in opposition to the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration in Washington, DC. We will be taking a close look at the PBC, which has come under fire from other state Bicentennial organizations, before passing judgement, and will feature an article on the PBC next time.

The People's Bicentennial Commission has emphasized our Revolutionary heritage and maintains that a continued revolution, at least in spirit, is requisite to a developing, effective democracy.

The Montana Bicentennial Administration staff is presently researching the PBC and will feature an article on it in the October issue.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ??

The Montana Bicentennial Administration would like to dedicate a page of the "News" every other month to a "letters to the editor" column. If you have anything to say relating to the Bicentennial commemoration either locally or nationally, let us know about it in letter form.

We cannot possible print every letter, but will print those most interesting in the judgement of the staff. Address all letters to the MBA in Helena.

BILLINGS/YELLOWSTONE COUNTY BICENTENNIAL COMMUNITY APPLICATION PASSES REGIONAL SCRUTINY

The Billings/Yellowstone County Bicentennial Community application recently secured backing from the Region Eight American Revolution Bicentennial Administration and was forwarded to Washington for final review. The Yellowstone Commission has been extremely active and hard-working and the MBA is hopeful that their efforts will be rewarded with a BICENTENNIAL COMMUNITY designation.

GOOD LUCK TO BILLINGS/YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

RAISING FUNDS FOR BICENTENNIAL PROJECTS

Funding for your Bicentennial projects will come from three broad sources: local, state and national.
STATE & NATIONAL: Some funding available through the MBA.

LOCAL:

1. Select a fundraising chairperson and a working committee. Your full committee could handle fundraising if the membership is small.
2. List your projects needing funding by priority.
3. Write a narrative on each project describing the purpose, goals, need, timetable and budget information.
4. Solicit funds from private sources including business, government, organizations, and individuals.
5. Involve the community in the projects by asking local organizations to sponsor one or more special Bicentennial fundraising events, such as:

suppers featuring "old time" menus
swap and trade meets
revolutionary era games and contests
talent shows or plays
town history pageant
donated book sale
crafts and food sale
tours of historic buildings and homes
garden tours and flower sales
special exhibits of colonial or early Montana artifacts
publish and sell a small historic town guide
sponsor a movie with a colonial background
concert of early musical instruments
square dancing
flea market
sell MBA logo pins (you can earn $.50 per pin)

6. Organize a special souvenir program. Various companies specialize in the production of medals, ceramics, calendars, buttons, etc. Where it is appropriate to the Bicentennial or some special local event connected with the Revolution, the committee may wish to use this means of raising funds.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

THE OBSERVANCE OF OUR COUNTRY'S 200th BIRTHDAY AFFORDS US A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN HOW TO LIVE WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT.

WE NEED TO ESTABLISH PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION AND UTILIZE OUR KNOWLEDGE FOR PLANNING THE NEXT CENTURY.

OUR FOREFATHERS LEFT US WITH A CHALLENGE. THEY ESTABLISHED CIVILIZATION IN THIS NEW LAND AND EXTENDED IT FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA. THEY LIVED ON THE LAND AND WORKED IT, AND THEY LEFT IT BEAUTIFUL AND CLEAN. WE MUST LEARN TO LIVE WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT, TO "LEAVE IT BEAUTIFUL AND CLEAN" FOR OUR DESCENDANTS.

THE INDIANS PROCLAIMED, AND DEEPLY BELIEVED, THAT THE GREAT SPIRIT WAS ALL POWERFUL, RULING OVER MOTHER EARTH, HUMAN BEINGS AND ALL LIFE. BY LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION AND ITS PEOPLE, WE CAN APPLY THE FIRST AMERICANS' RELIGIOUS TENETS AND THEREBY PRESERVE THE BEAUTY AND HERITAGE OF OUR LAND AND WATER HANDED DOWN TO US.

WE MUST PLEDGE TO RECLAIM AND RESTORE THAT WHICH WE HAVE SPOILED AND RUINED DURING THE PAST CENTURY.

THE BICENTENNIAL IS A CHALLENGE. A CHALLENGE TO ENHANCE OUR ENVIRONMENT AND BUILD AN EVEN GREATER FUTURE AS WE ENTER THE THIRD CENTURY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Hal G. Stearns

NEED PUBLICITY FOR YOUR PROGRAM? LET US HELP.

The MBA is anxious to give every community space to publicize its programs in the "Montana Bicentennial News." Name a publicity or communications chairperson to keep us informed of your activities, and we will do our best to let the rest of Montana and the nation know through our newsletter.

The information will also help us keep tabs on the development of Bicentennial programs throughout Montana.

*

WHAT HAPPENED IN 1874...The Editor of the Madisonian, Virginia City newspaper, demanded that the police fine ladies who flirted in public. *(It's a good thing they took care of that before it got out of hand!)*

*

Did you know the first white men to record what is today Montana were Lewis and Clark in April of 1805?

David Thompson, the famed Canadian fur-trader, established his first post near Thompson Falls in 1809!

HAS YOUR COMMUNITY HISTORY BEEN WRITTEN?

Every community in Montana has a rich historical heritage, a wondrously interesting story to tell about how it came into being and what has happened since.

There are tremedous potentials all over the state for the Big Sky Bicentennial folk to stage pageants about the community's history, to write the fascinating tales of the past, to encourage local artists to utilize historic themes, to involve musicians, dancers, youth.

Only by the personal efforts of people from all over Montana can we be assured a significant Bicentennial observance. Let us all pledge our individual efforts toward matching our mountains with a towering series of celebrations.

We will help in whatever way we can, but it is up to the people of this state to insure an effective 1976.

TWO NEW STAFF MEMBERS JOIN BICENTENNIAL

Hal Stearns and John Barrett have been joined by two "recruits" from state government to help coordinate and implement the Bicentennial in Montana.

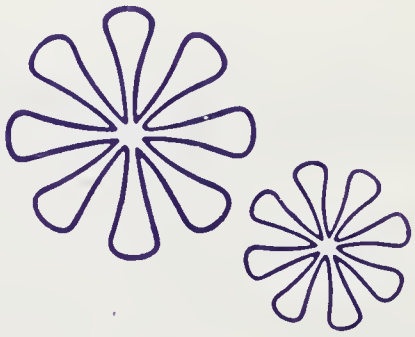
Paul A. McCann, former Research Analyst with the Office of the Governor, will be Project Coordinator for the MBA. Paul's duties will include Bicentennial planning and research, Bicentennial Community and local project Coordinator and some office administrative duties.

Paul McCann is experienced in government work and will provide much needed assistance in the growing Bicentennial effort as the year 1976 nears.

Gerri Reeves, who previously worked for the Employment Security Division of the Department of Labor and Industry, replaces Cindy O'Toole, who will be teaching in Polson this year. Gerri's previous experience in government will be extremely helpful.

As Executive Secretary, she will handle general office duties, including: bookkeeping, filing, typing, stenography, reception and public affairs, and, in addition, will serve as secretary to the Bicentennial Advisory Council.

Please feel free to contact either of our new employees. The phone number for the MBA is 449-3884.



THE BICENTENNIAL NEEDS YOU

SPECIAL EVENTS IN AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

DATE	EVENT	TOWN
AUGUST		
1-4	Last Chance Stampede & Fair	Helena
3-11	Festival of Nations	Red Lodge
4-5	Quarter Horse Show	Kalispell
7-18	Midland Empire Horse Races	Billings
7-18	Summer Showcase: "Man of La Mancha"	Great Falls
10-11	Annual Elks Golf Tournament	Polson
10-11	State Appaloosa Show	Lewistown
10-17	Midland Empire Fair	Billings
11	$1000 Trout Derby	Livingston
11	Buffalo Barbeque	Stevensville
16-18	Governor's Cup Horse Show	Helena
19	Hamilton Festival Day at Expo '74	Spokane
21-25	Western Montana Fair	Missoula
31-Sept 2	State Water Ski Championships	Great Falls
SEPTEMBER		
1	Motorcycle Motocross Race	Havre
6-8	Gun Show	Missoula
2nd wk	AOPA Flyin	Hardin
6-7	Rendevous of Western Art	Helena
22	Points Motorcross State Championships	Helena
28-29	Finals NRA Rodeo	Glendive
28-29	2nd Annual Herbstfest	Laurel

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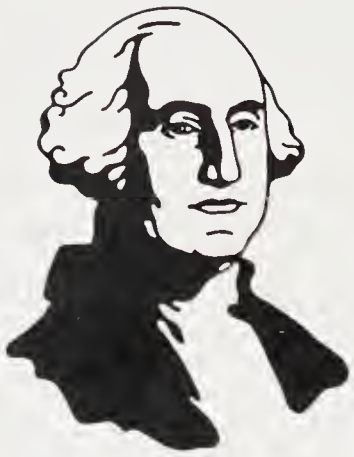

WHO SAID THAT?

"The God who gave us Life, gave us Liberty at the same time!"

"When a man assumes a public trust, he should consider himself as public property."

"Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just."

"We mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honour."

"If a due participation of office is a matter of right, how are vacancies to be obtained? Those by death are few; by resignation, none."

"Error of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it."

(for answer, see underlined name on page nine)

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